

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed March 18, 2008 has been carefully considered and this paper is Applicant's response thereto.

Allowable Subject Matter

As an initial matter, Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter. The Examiner indicated that while currently objected to as depending from a rejected claim, claims 3-9 were deemed allowable if rewritten in independent manner. Claim 3 has been rewritten in independent manner including all features of the base claims. Accordingly, claims 3-9 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim Amendments

Claims 1-11 are amended. Claims 1-11 were amended to omit the inclusion of numerical labels, as is consistent with United States Patent Practice. Claim 1 was amended to recite the feature of "the first and second contact member are slidably positioned in the sleeve." Support for this amendment, to the extent it was not inherent in the claim as previously drafted, is found in originally filed claim 3, as well as Figure 4. In addition, claim 3 was rewritten in independent manner. No new matter was added.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 - Theve

Claims 1, 2, 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,416,125 to Theve (Theve). Independent claim 1 recites the feature "the first and second contact member are slidably positioned in the sleeve." As can be appreciated, Theve fails to disclose this feature of claim 1. In particular, Theve states "[a]n annular recess 34 is formed in the surface of cylindrical portion 28 and the corresponding end of inner casing 12 is turned in at 36 to firmly engage said recess and thus prevent movement of terminal contact 167 relative to inner casing 12. Theve, Col 2, Ln. 32-36. Accordingly, Theve fails to disclose all the recited features and cannot be said to anticipate claim 1. Consequentially, claim 1 is patentable over Theve.

Claims 2 and 10-11 depend from claim 1 and are patentable over Theve for at least the reason that claim 1 is patentable and for the additional features recited therein.

All objections and rejections being addressed, the pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance and notice of same is earnestly sought. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conversation will facilitate the prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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